

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 9, 1945

Vol. 8, No. 4

TEBETH, 24, 5705

Vaad Ha'lr President



At a well-attended meeting of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'lr held in the Talmud Torah Hall last month, Mr. Thomas Sachs, was unanimously elected President. A past president of the Congregation Agudath Achim and a vice-chairman of the Community Center and Synagogue Committee, Mr. Sachs served from the inception of Vaad Ha'lr as Vice-President under the late chairman, Mr. A. J. Freiman. Often in the lifetime of Mr. Freiman, and especially in the last years of his illness, Mr. Sachs not only presided at the meeting of the Vaad, but carried the grave responsibility of guiding its work. He had been, indeed, a principal figure in the organization of the Vaad Ha'lr and in a quiet, unassuming fashion, had a tremendous influence in shaping its destinies.

Other officers elected were: S. J. Ritt and Lawrence Freiman, Vice-Chairmen, and A. Bookman, Treasurer. Mr. R. Pearl was returned to office as Honorary Secretary and Mr. Joseph Ages was appointed Executive Secretary.

SHABBOS CANDLES

January 12.....	5.22 p.m.
January 19.....	5.31 p.m.
January 26.....	5.41 p.m.
February 2.....	5.51 p.m.
February 9.....	6.01 p.m.

High Honour for M. Bookman

QMS Max Bookman appeared in the King's Honour List of New Year as a winner of the British Empire Medal. Well-known as a young Judea leader in Ottawa, and a member of a family that has played a prominent part in developing the Cong. Sons of Jacob, Sgt. Bookman brought this great honor to our community in the same week his father, Mr. B. Bookman, was installed as President of the Hebrew Benefit Society.

Zionist Society Elections

The Ottawa Zionist Society will hold its annual election at the Chateau Laurier on Tuesday, January 23rd, at 7.00 p.m., in a salon overlooking the main ballroom. It is the opinion of the President, Mr. S. J. Ritt, that the gentlemen will want to take the opportunity of hearing Mrs. Israel Sieff of London when she addresses the Hadassah Give-or-Get dinner, and he hopes that the business of the meeting will be over in time to enable those in attendance to adjourn to the balcony in accordance with the practice of previous years.

Patriarch Dies

Mr. M. L. Greenberg, a leader in the religious Jewish life of Ottawa for almost four decades, died on Friday, December 29. As a teacher in the Ottawa Talmud Torah, a sexton in the Adath Jeshurun synagogue, and, until his retirement, the Mashgiach of the Ottawa Vaad Hakashruth, he staunchly upheld the sanctity of Torah tradition.

For some thirty years Mr. Greenberg was the secretary of the Chevra Mishnays of Ottawa, and until the day of his death he was the active representative in the city of the Ezras Torah. Two of his sons who live in Ottawa are prominent here: Mr. L. S. Greenberg, a past president of the Congregation Adath Jeshurun, who is the chairman of the Jewish National Fund Council, and Mr. Yale Greenberg, who is the assistant-director of the Hanoar Study and Breakfast Club.

Mizrachi Dinner Sunday Night



The annual Mizrachi Palestine Campaign Dinner will be held in the Talmud Torah Auditorium Sunday evening, January 14, at 6.30 p.m. The principal speaker of the evening will be the newly elected National Executive Director of the Mizrachi movement in Canada, Rabbi H. H. Rubins, who will fly back from his Western tour in order to address the meeting. Rabbi Rubins spent a number of his student years in the Holy Land where he was ordained, and where he, at the same time, became deeply imbued with the Zionist ideal. At the insistence of the World Mizrachi Executive, he left his large congregation in New York last vance the Mizrachi movement in Canada. November in order to strengthen and advance His speaking abilities, combined with his sincere devotion to the cause of rebuilding Eretz Israel upon the principles of the Hebrew faith, promise the local community a true spiritual occasion.

Reservations may be made with Mr. S. Spevack, Mrs. A. Brunberg, Mr. M. N. Drazin, or Mr. H. Bessin.

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published Monthly By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

Thomas Sachs,	President.
S. J. Ritt,	Vice-President.
L. Freiman,	Vice-President.
A. Bookman,	Treasurer.
Joseph Ages,	Executive-Secretary.

Wartime Prices and Trade Board Exemption Certificate
No. 66, dated Feb. 9, 1943.

MIZRACHI CAMPAIGN, 1945

In the recent elections in the Holy Land, the most remarkable showing was made by the Hapoel Hamizrachi. The total votes polled on its ticket was a pleasant revelation to the optimists in the movement itself, while all other observers took note of the undisputed increase of prestige reflected by the ballot. The people who live in Palestine, in other words, have shown concretely that the constructive work of the Mizrachi is highly valuable. One must consequently be weary of the witicism too widely circulated, perhaps with malice aforethought, that others build the houses of the Holy Land, and the Mizrachi merely comes later to nail on the Mezuzoth.

Actually the Mizrachi is today the second largest political unit in Eretz Israel. In allowing this fact to be impressed upon our consciousness, we must remember that great numbers of religious Jews there who sympathize with the Mizrachi viewpoint will not vote for it, because they are opposed to its policy of cooperating with the other Zionist groups. If, indeed, the Agudath Israel had not ordered its followers to absent themselves entirely from the election booths, the Mizrachi vote might have been the highest of all.

Fortunately, Canada does not suffer from this split in the ranks of religious Jewry. Fortunately, therefore, all Jews in the Dominion whose attitude towards the religion of their forefathers is positive, and who agree that in a favourable environment the laws of Hebrew tradition ought assuredly to be upheld, should deem it a privilege to support the Mizrachi Campaign. We in Ottawa are very proud of our unbroken devotion to the cause of rebuilding our Homeland, and we are also proud of our local reverence for the sanctities of our people. A pride based on these two fundamental attitudes can best express its strength through making the Mizrachi Campaign completely successful in reaching its goal.

ADULT EDUCATION IN OTTAWA

The armchair strategists who sit in the comfort of their parlors and know just what ought to be done to win the battles on distant fronts are mere amateurs compared to the Jews who tell you all about the im-

portance of adult classes in Jewish history, tradition and literature. They can tell you with great emphasis, it is shameful to see that in Ottawa nothing is done to educate the grown-up man and woman, always implying that in every other city of Canada the tempo of classes in adult education races along at terrific speed. There will be a hidden assumption that the only thing necessary to have successful classes functioning here is for somebody to announce that they have started. It is particularly interesting to see how short is a public memory that overlooks all the attempts made in the past, and the general indifference that greeted them.

For the sake of the record let it be repeated that during the past ten years there were tried in Ottawa a Bible class for women, in which the attendance travelled in five successive lectures from one hundred to eleven; a Book Review series on Jewish books, in which interest dwindled as rapidly as it was generated; a music appreciation group that came together for three meetings; and only lately a Hebrew teachers' study course that is dying of anemia—not of the lecturers, but of the expected audience. From time to time a young man or woman will approach the Rabbi and ask about organizing a class in Hebrew, or a class in Jewish religious practices, or a class in Jewish history, and when the Rabbi will suggest that the speaker interest at least a few more in the idea, and it will be inaugurated, he never hears any more about it. It is unfortunately common knowledge that the announcement of a lecture on a subject like the Rambam or the Story of the Talmud will cause no mad rush through the entrance doors of the hall, whereas notice that somebody will discuss the future of Socialism or the tale of Italy Behind the Scenes will bring a crowded auditorium; and that is a situation that occurs just as frequently in Vancouver and in Halifax, in Hamilton and in Calgary, as it does in Ottawa. One of the glories of modern Palestine is that a lecture by Rabbi Berlin on the subject of applied Halachah will attract hundreds of young people, and one can only sadly observe, "It can't happen here".

There are, to be sure, successful lecture forums in some of the large Jewish centers of Canada and the United States, but, as a wit once said about a crowd of merely 15,000 in the Yankee Stadium. "In a city the size of New York, you can get that many people on any street corner to watch a man beat his wife". Then, too, many a successful forum depends not upon the interest in the subjects discussed, but upon the world reputation of the visiting orators, and high pressure methods of publicity. You cannot build wholesome adult education courses on such meteoric bases.

It is true in Ottawa, as it is true in most cities of the United States and Canada, that the Rabbi would be only too happy to conduct courses in adult education, did he find even a group of fifteen or twenty who sincerely desired them. But it is also true in Ottawa, as it is true in most American cities, that the Rabbi has spoken for such classes both publicly and privately to no avail, and he is convinced that the initiative must come from a nucleus of energetic laymen rather than from his office. He will, no doubt, be greatly pleased—though surprised—if an editorial like this will bring people to his desk to discuss the feasibility of beginning such classes.

Killed In Action

Sgmn. Leslie Gilbert Dover, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Dover, 485 King Edward Ave., was killed in action overseas, according to an official telegram received by his parents in December. He had been overseas for more than two years, having crossed the Atlantic when only seventeen years of age.

Sgmn. Dover was the grandson of John Dover, a Charter member and past president of Congregation Adath Jeshurun. The sympathy of the community goes out to the stricken family.

Holiday of Trees

The Jewish holiday for trees, Chamishah Asar Bishvat, will occur on Sunday night, January 28th and Monday 29th. The kinds of fruit that grow in Palestine should be eaten on this minor festival, and the Jewish National Fund, the tree-planting agency in the Holy Land, should be generously remembered.

A Bouquet from a Serviceman

The general reaction of more than fifty men and women in uniform who attended a Chanukah service at the Congregation Adath Jeshurun that was conducted by the three Jewish Chaplains in this area, F/L J. Berger, F/L W. Gordon and H/Capt. O. Z. Fasman, may be summed up in the following letter the Rabbi received a few days after the Service.

"Dear Sir: I had the extreme pleasure of attending the Chanukah Service for Personnel conducted at the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue last Sunday.

"It is difficult to express in words the feeling one gets in attending such a service, particularly when I have always been accustomed to seeing the Chanukah lights lit. It brought back memories of former days when I was home in civilian life.

"Please express my thanks to Cantor Rabin and his Choir for the pleasant rendition of the traditional Chanukah songs, to the several Chaplains who participated, to the Sisterhood of the Congregation which generously supplied the very tasty Latkes, and the Officers of the Synagogue who made all this possible.

"I have been told by many of the Servicemen who attended, that it was an evening long to be remembered.

I remain,
Respectfully yours,
R80911, Sgt. Eisenberg, R. T.
R.C.A.F. Station, Rockcliffe,
Ottawa, Ontario.

The Center Report

The printed report of the Community Center and Synagogue Committee, presented by the three co-chairmen, Alex Beteherman, Simon J. Ritt and Morris Zagerman, was rushed through the printers on very short notice in order to be available for the meeting at which Cantor Kapov-Kagan was the distinguished guest. It required swift emergency work to be able to complete the job, and the hardworking secretary, Martin K. Levinson, together with the chairman of publicity, Lawrence Freiman, deserve special mention for their contribution to this important aspect of the program.

The list of officers that was printed on the last page was based on the original appointments of last year. Since those were made, several changes have been put into the record. Mr. Harold Shenkman was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Building Committee. Mr. Bert Katz was appointed to fill the vacancy left in the chairmanship of the Young People's Committee, following the resignation of Dr. D. W. Petegorsky, who was designated Chairman of the Planning Committee.

The committee of the project realizes that many more people would have made their contribution the first year had they not been absent from the city during the campaign, or had there not been an oversight on the part of the team that was to make the solicitation. It is the sincere hope of all the workers that people whose names were omitted will take the initiative and contact one of the officers in order to sign a pledge card and make their contribution.

MIZRACHI CAMPAIGN EXECUTIVE

At an executive meeting of the Mizrahi Society of Ottawa held at the end of December, an executive committee was appointed to conduct the Mizrahi Palestine Campaign of 1945. Rabbi O. Z. Fasman and Mr. Leon Petegorsky were designated Honorary Chairmen of the campaign. The other officers are:

S. Spevak, Chairman.

M. N. Drazin and Hy. Bessin, Capt. of Captains.

A. Brunberg, Treasurer.

Mrs. A. Brunberg, Convenor.

Campaign Committee: I. Beiles, Mrs. I. Beiles, Mrs. R. Bessin, M. Held, L. Kapeller, Rabbi B. Kravetz, Dr. D. W. Petegorsky, Rev. J. Rabin, Rev. S. Schreiber.

Your Child is Excused

The Public School Board will excuse from the Religious Instruction period every child whose parents make a request in writing. In view of the special conditions that face our Jewish children, who spend almost two hours every day receiving their religious instruction in the Hebrew School, the policy has been to permit Jewish boys and girls to go home one-half hour earlier without in any way losing their school credits. The following letter speaks for itself:

"Dear Rabbi Fasman:

Your letter of December 5th was duly received and given consideration by the Management Committee of the Public School Board.

I am authorized to state in reply that your request re the time of giving Religious Education in York Street School and Osgoode Street School will be granted. In fact, previous to the receipt of your letter, the Principals of each of the two Schools had arranged to have the lessons in Religious Education given to the pupils in grades one and two between 3.00 and 3.30 p.m.

Yours very truly
(Sgd) GEO. H. RICE,
Sec.-Treas.
Ottawa Public School Board."

TALMUD TORAH PRAISED

The hard-working teachers' staff of the Ottawa Talmud Torah won tremendous praise in the community for its successful program last Chanukah. Under the able direction of the principal, Rabbi B. Kravetz, and the tireless efforts of the teachers, Mr. S. Shapiro, Mr. J. Gordon and Miss R. Goldberg, the children did a magnificent job in the Talmud Torah Auditorium where the parents and friends were convinced that the pupils were receiving a priceless Hebrew education. The West-end branch, appearing before the public for the first time in the Agudath Israel synagogue, also showed the excellent results of the Talmud Torah course being given there. In their case valuable assistance is being rendered every Sunday morning by Magistrate A. H. Lieff.

NEWS FROM FREDERICTON

The Jewish Community here was very happy to learn that a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. L. Harry Goldman of Fredericton, N.B. Until last October Mr. Goldman was very active in this city, having served for many years as the Secretary of the Ottawa Vaad Ha'Ir. Mr. Goldman had also been a member of Cantor Rabin's choir, and he was fortunate to have Cantor Rabin come to Fredericton for the Drith Milah.

Mrs. I. SIEFF TO ADDRESS GIVE-OR-GET



The annual Give-or-Get dinner of the Ottawa Council of Hadassah will be held this year at the Chateau Laurier, Tuesday evening, January 23rd at 7.00 p.m.

Mrs. Israel Sieff of London, England, will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Sieff is the Chairman of the Women's International Zionist Organization, and the chairman of the British Youth Aliyah organization (known there as Women's Jewish Appeal). She is also a Vice-President of the British Jewish Congress and of the Jewish National Fund in Great Britain.

To many Ottawa men overseas, Mrs. Sieff is well-known in her capacity as President of the Balfour Service Club, probably the outstanding Jewish service-men's gathering place in the world today. Among the high offices she holds as a prominent civic worker in England is the Vice-Presidency of the Queen Charlotte Hospital, the world's largest maternity center.

The name of Mrs. Israel Sieff is intimately linked with the development of modern Palestine through the staff Research Institute, which was built by the members of her family in memory of her son and which is making a major contribution to the war effort in the Near East. Her husband and her brother, Mr. Simon Marks, are among the most honoured leaders in British Jewry today.

Included in the rich program of the evening will be the appearance of the famous concert artist Sidor Belarski of Russia and Palestine, who will sing a number of modern Hebrew songs.

Mrs. Anna Raginsky of Montreal, the national President of the Hadassah Organization of Canada, will also attend the dinner and bring greetings. Mrs. B. M. Alexander, President of the local Hadassah Council, will preside, and Mrs. Kalman Smith is acting as convenor.

Talmud Torah Prize Winners

The prizes that were awarded at the Chanukah program of the Ottawa Talmud Torah, given by Mr. L. S. Greenberg in the name of his father, were awarded on the basis of excellence in studies since the beginning of the current year. The following children were selected by their teachers as deserving of these awards:

Melvin Baker, Esther Betcherman, Joan Caplan, Martin Cardash, Daniel Cherm, Avrom Crazin, Avis Fasman, Tully Friedgut, Tilly Gally, Lily Greenberg, Stanley Hock, Gita Kizel, Helen Levinson, Miriam Lieff, Mark Molot, Simon Morin, Bernard Pearl, Paul Rosman, Sol Shmelzer, Joseph Silver, Elaine Slone, Earl Slonensky, Zeida Soloway, Abe Tenenbaum, Harold Zelikovitz, Marlene Zelikovitz, Sheila Zelikovitz.

REV. A. BAKER DIES

As we go to press, the news that Rev. A. Baker, for thirty-five years the cantor-shochoet of Cong. Machzikei Hadath, has died spreads a cloud of heavy sorrow over the community. A quiet and beloved public servant, he was highly esteemed by the other cantors and shochem in the city, and he will be forever remembered by the masses for the democratic habits and for his earnest style of davenning. Until the day of his death he was the secretary of the Chevra Kadisha, and he administered the transient relief fund of the Benevolent Society.

His memory is for a blessing!

SERVICEMEN LOSE A FRIEND

The sudden tragic death of Mr. Fred Ritt of Pembroke, Ont. represents a severe loss for Jewish servicemen at the Petawawa Military Camp. Mr. Ritt acted as the Chairman of the War Services Committee in Pembroke that provided entertainment and hospitality for the Jewish men in the large camp at Petawawa, and he was in the midst of preparing the annual Chanukah party when a heart attack caused his untimely death.

Many Christian friends accompanied the Jewish delegation from Pembroke to the funeral services that were held from the home of his brother, Mr. S. J. Ritt, in Ottawa on Sunday, December 10. The survivors are the widow, the former Julia Golden of Ottawa, and a three-year old daughter, Debby, who continue to make their home in Pembroke.

A Touching Letter

Major Mervin Mirsky has written to his family the following dramatic paragraphs: "Last Sunday there was a special Chanukah service in what was left of a Synagogue in a little Dutch town. There were Jewish soldiers there from all countries, along with the few remaining civilians. It was the first service held there since the German occupation, and it is one that I shall never forget. After the service there was a party for the children. There were about eight children present of which six were orphans. Their parents had either been killed or taken off to Poland. These six had been hidden and taken care of by one of the real heroines of this war. She is an oldish woman called Sister Pop, and with nothing more than her heart of gold, she collected these little waifs and fed and clothed them with the little she had.

"I've given her a box out of my parcels for the children, and intend bringing her another. You might tell this story to the people in Ottawa, so that they might send her things through me. I played with the children at the party, and each of Sister Pop's charges was as spotless and clean as a new dollar. Really, Edith Cavell did no more than this wonderful woman, and she was so modest and self-effacing. There were two little boys there—one about four, the other five. I really fell in love with them. The one of four—they didn't even know his name.

"On Friday I went on leave to Brussels so that I could attend Yortzeit service for Mom. The main Synagogue there is still standing—and for some reason or other, it functioned right through the occupation.

The wrecks of humanity that I saw and spoke to there, would provide material for a hundred stories. How each one of them survived is a miracle. There are practically no young people left."

Among the recent men in the armed forces returning to Ottawa from overseas are Ray Edelstein (who was with the first Canadians to reach England in this war in December, 1939), Morton and Archie Tallor and Allan Kapinsky.

OVERSEAS HONOR ROLL

Since the last issue of the Bulletin, the following men have arrived overseas on active service:

MORRIS, Sgt. H.

If you know of any others, please get in touch with the Overseas Mailing Chairman, Mr. D. Mirsky, at 3-0676.